

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /057 W
-----003657 232302Z /75

R 231515Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9927
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2229

CAIRO PLEASE PASS USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, XF, EG, IS
SUBJ: THE WEST BANK ON THE EVE OF BEGIN-SADAT TALK

1. SADAT'S EPOCHAL TRIP TO JERUSALEM HAS CREATED MIXTURE
OF HOPE AND ANXIETY AMONG EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK PALESTINIANS.
THEIR HOPE SPRINGS FROM REALIZATION THAT SADAT SINGLE HANDEDLY
FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
INCLUDING ISRAEL. WHILE ASSURING ISRAELIS THAT HE SINCERELY
DESIRED PEACE, SADAT IN HIS KNESSET SPEECH, WAS FIRM ON
WITHDRAWAL, PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND NO BILATERAL DEAL.
EXCEPT FOR FACT PLO NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, WEST BANKERS WOULD
SUBSCRIBE TO SADAT'S KNESSET SPEECH 100 PERCENT.

2. THEIR CONCERN SPRINGS FROM FEAR THAT BEGIN WILL NOT OFFER
ENOUGH ON THE TERRITORIAL/PALESTINIAN ISSUES AND THAT SADAT
WILL EITHER BE COMPELLED BY THE FORCES HE HAS SET IN MOTION
TO SIGN A SEPARATE PEACE OR THE PRESENT PEACE DRIVE
WILL STALL.

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3. ALTHOUGH THERE IS WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR
SADAT ON THE WEST BANK/EAST JERUSALEM, ALMOST ALL OF
THE MAYORS AND REPUTABLE NOTABLES HAVE NOT ENDORSED
HIS EFFORTS AND HAVE INSTEAD REITERATED THAT THE PLO
SPEAKS FOR THE PALESTINIANS. THESE DECLARATIONS ARE
NOT SO MUCH MOTIVATED BY A CONVICTION THAT THE PLO IS
CAPABLE OF OBTAINING WHAT THEY WANT (AN END TO ISRAELI

OCCUPATION AND POLITICAL SELF DETERMINATION), AS TO DOUBTS THAT BEGIN CAN SHOW SIGNIFICANT FLEXIBILITY ON THE CORE ISSUES OF JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK.

4. FROM WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT BEGIN'S CONCEPTS TO DATE, WEST BANKERS CONSIDER THAT HE HAS MOVED FROM A POSITION THAT THE WEST BANK IS FOREVER AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LABOR PARTY'S LONG-STANDING POSITION IN FAVOR OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION UNDER INDEFINITE MILITARY OCCUPATION. THE "CONCESSIONS" OF NO FORMAL ANNEXATION AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS FOR THE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT ARE NOT VIEWED BY THEM AS BEING OF THE SAME QUANTATIVE AND QUALITATIVE CONCESSIONS MADE BY SADAT IN HIS ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PEACE.

5. THIS SITUATION IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE ONLY KNOWN WEST BANKERS THE ISRAELIS COULD INDUCE TO GO TO EGYPT TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR SADAT WERE BURHAN JA'ABARI AND HUSAYN SHIYUKHI.
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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